

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 40, 42, 48 and 50 as set forth below.

Complete Listing of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims will stand as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a member of the taxa actinomycetes in a sample, comprising:

(a) sequentially incubating with the sample a thiol-selective reagent to produce thiol derivatives, a purified antibody that specifically binds to a mycothiol derivative ~~or a thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative~~, and a reagent for detecting binding of the antibody to sample components for a time sufficient for said antibody to react with said mycothiol derivative ~~or said thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative~~; and

(b) detecting binding of the antibody with said mycothiol derivative ~~or said thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative~~,

wherein the binding indicates presence of a member of the taxa actinomycetes in the sample.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said member of the taxa actinomycetes is mycobacteria.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of a blood sample, a serum sample, a urine sample, a fecal sample, a tissue biopsy, cerebrospinal fluid sample, ascites samples, pleural fluid sample, respiratory secretions, and a sputum sample.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising
(c) quantitating said mycothiol derivative ~~or said thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative~~ in the sample.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An isolated antibody which binds specifically to a maleimidyl derivative of mycothiol ~~or a thiol-containing mycothiol component~~.

10. (Previously Amended) The isolated antibody of claim 9, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

11. (Previously Amended) The isolated antibody of claim 9, wherein the antibody is polyclonal.

40. (Currently Amended) A kit useful for detecting the presence of mycothiol ~~or thiol-containing mycothiol component~~ in a sample, the kit comprising: carrier means being compartmentalized to receive in close confinement therein one or more containers comprising a container containing an antibody specific for mycothiol ~~or a thiol-containing mycothiol component~~ to detect mycothiol ~~or thiol-containing mycothiol component~~ in the sample.

42. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 40, further comprising a container containing a detection reagent to detect the reaction of the mycothiol ~~or thiol-containing mycothiol component~~ with said antibody to detect the presence of mycothiol ~~or thiol-containing mycothiol component~~.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said detection of binding of the antibody with the mycothiol derivative comprises using a detection reagent is directly labeled with a label.